

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying difructose dianhydride III (“DFA III”) having a purity of at least 70 w/w% based on dry weight, comprising:

contacting the DFA III containing solution containing DFA III at a purity of less than ~~[[70%]]~~ 70 w/w% based on dry weight, a R-Bx of 10 or more, and a DFA III purity of at least 60 w/w% based on dry weight, with active carbon particles, wherein said active carbon particles are added in amount of 5 w/w% or less based on the solid content of the DFA III containing solution and the average particle size of the activated carbon particles ranges from 15 to 200 microns;

separating the solid and liquid phases of the resulting solution, and  
recovering DFA III having a purity of at 70 w/w% or more based on dry weight.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 43, further comprising contacting under aeration the DFA III containing solution with a yeast that acts on disaccharides or monosaccharides other than DFA III to degrade or incorporate them into the yeast.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, further comprising separating DFA III chromatographically from the recovered DFA III having a purity of 70 w/w% or more based on dry weight.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, further comprising:  
contacting under aeration the DFA III containing solution with a yeast that acts on disaccharides or monosaccharides other than DFA III to degrade or incorporate them into the yeast; and  
separating DFA III chromatographically from the DFA III containing solution or from the recovered DFA III having a purity of 70 w/w% based on dry weight or more.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 43, wherein said solid and liquid phases are separated by filtration.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, further comprising crystallizing DFA III having a purity of at least 95 w/w% based on dry weight from the recovered DFA III, wherein said crystallized DFA III lacks the smell of DFA III crystals produced by a method not employing the active carbon particles.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, further comprising crystallizing DFA III having a purity of at least 99 w/w% based on dry weight from the recovered DFA III, wherein said crystallized DFA III lacks the smell of DFA III crystals produced by a method not employing the active carbon particles.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, wherein said DFA III containing solution is obtained by treating inulin with a fructosyltransferase, wherein the polymerization degree of fructose in said inulin is 10 or more.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 43, wherein said DFA III containing solution is obtained by treating inulin with inulin fructotransferase, wherein the polymerization degree of fructose in said inulin is 10 or more.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 43, wherein said DFA III containing solution is a solution produced by action of a fructosyltransferase on a fructose polymer or a material containing fructose polymer.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 43, wherein said DFA III containing solution is a syrup suitable for crystallization and separation.

Claim 54 (New): A process for producing difructose dianhydride III ("DFA III") having a purity of at least 70 w/w% based on dry weight, comprising:

contacting a crude solution containing DFA III at a purity of less than 70 w/w% but more than 60 w/w% based on dry weight, with 5 w/w%, based on the weight of the solid content of the DFA-III containing solution, of active carbon particles having an average particle size ranging from 15 to 200 microns;

separating the solid and liquid phases of the resulting solution, and

recovering DFA III having a purity of at 70 w/w% or more based on dry weight from the liquid phase.

Claim 55 (New): The process of claim 54, wherein said crude solution is a DFA-III containing fraction obtained by chromatographic removal of saccharides other than DFA-III from a DFA-III containing solution.

Claim 56 (New): The process of claim 54, wherein said crude solution is produced by bringing a DFA-III containing solution into contact with yeast under conditions suitable for removing disaccharides other than DFA-III and/or monosaccharides from the DFA-III containing solution.

Claim 57 (New): The process of claim 54, wherein said crude solution is produced by defecation and filtration of a DFA-III containing solution by adding active carbon followed by a solid-liquid separation.

Claim 58 (New): The process of claim 54, wherein said crude solution has a concentration of R-Bx 60 or more.

Claim 59 (New): The process of claim 54, comprising recovering colorless and odorless DFA-III crystals having a purity of 95 w/w% or more.